

Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish; Reprinted with permission from Intermountain Flora Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, U. S. A., Vol. 3A, page 197; Copyright 1997, The New York Botanical Garden.

CAMISSONIA ANDINA OBSCURE EVENING-PRIMROSE

Obscure Evening-primrose is an annual with stems that are 3-15 cm tall, and which branch from the base to make the plant broader than it is tall. The strap-shaped leaves, 5-25 mm long, are clustered at the base of the plant and at the upper portions of the stems. Foliage is finely hairy. Tiny flowers are attached to the stem at the base of upper leaves. The 4 separate, yellow petals are 1-2 mm long, and the 4 sepals are reflexed. The stigma is ball-shaped. Petals and sepals are attached at the top of the ovary, which matures into a narrowly club-shaped capsule, 4-8 mm long, with the widest point attached to the stem. Flowering in May-June.

C. ANDINA can be distinguished from other annual members of the genus by the small, yellow petals, ca. 2 mm long, and by its sessile capsules. A hand lens may be needed for positive identification.